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1. A drive for track laying vehicles comprising a plurality of components

including:

an electric traction motor having a rotor;

at least one variable speed mechanical gear stage connected to said rotor and
having an output; and

at least one brake connected to the output of the at least one variable speed
mechanical gear stage;

wherein one of said at least one [of said] gear stage and said at least one brake
are arranged inside the rotor of the electric motor and the other of said gear stage and said
brake are arranged laterally outside the electric motor so as to be arranged coaxially therewith
and in substantially the same plane as others of said plural components which are arranged
outside the electric motor.

2. The drive in accordance with claim 1, wherein said electric traction
motor further comprises one of an internal and external rotor.

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4. The drive in accordance with claim 1, [further comprising] wherein said
at least one variable speed mechanical gear stage comprises a first epicyclic gear unit acting as
a fixed stage[;] and a second epicyclic gear unit driven by said first epicyclic gear unit[;] and a
plurality of multiple-disc clutches operably connected to said first and second epicyclic [gear]

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gears, said at least one variable speed mechanical gear stage also [and] having an output shaft operably connected with said at least one brake[;], wherein said electric traction motor comprises an external-rotor motor, and wherein one of said first and second epicyclic gears and one of said plurality of multiple-disc clutches are arranged one behind the other in an interior region of the external-rotor motor, and the other of said first and second epicyclic gears and another of said plurality of multiple-disc clutches are arranged to lie outside the external-rotor motor coaxially in a plane with said at least one brake in a radial direction from said external-rotor motor.

5. The drive in accordance with claim 1, [further comprising] wherein said at least one variable speed mechanical gear stage comprises a plurality of gear stages[,] and a plurality of clutches, wherein at least one gear stage and at least one clutch are arranged in an interior of the electric motor, and wherein at least another of said gear stages and said clutches in addition to said at least one brake are arranged coaxially with respect to each other and in the same plane outside said electric motor.

6. The drive in accordance with claim 1, [further comprising] wherein said at least one variable speed mechanical gear stage comprises a plurality of gear stages and a plurality of clutches, wherein two of said plurality of gear stages and at least one of said plurality of clutches are arranged in an interior of said electric motor, and wherein at least